

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS CORRESPONDENCE IS BEING DEPOSITED WITH THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE WITH SUFFICIENT POSTAGE AS FIRST CLASS MAIL IN AN ENVELOPE ADDRESSED TO: ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS, WASHINGTON, D.C., 20231, ON:

Date: 10/12/03

By: Carol Rosemond

Patent

Attorney's Docket No. 033297-120



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of

) Mail Stop: Box Non-Fee Amendment

Daniel T. Gross, et al.

) Group Art Unit: 3731

Application No.: 10/027,681

) Examiner: Paul A. Roberts

Filed: December 21, 2001

) Confirmation No.: 2036

For: SUTURE TRIMMER

)

)

)

)

**RESPONSE AND  
PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

**MAIL STOP NON FEE AMENDMENT**

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Responsive to the Restriction Requirement of June 2, 2003, the Applicants hereby elect Group I, being claims 1 to 7 and 11 to 20, with traverse. The Applicants hereby elect the species of the invention illustrated in Fig. 1. Claims 1 to 7 are readable on the elected species.

Prior to substantive examination, please amend claims 4, 5, 7, 9, 11 and 12 as follows:

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Date: 10/02/03

By Carol Rosemond

3731/10

Patent

Attorney's Docket No. 033297-120.

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of  
T. Daniel Gross et al.  
Application No.: 10/027,681  
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} Group Art Unit: 3731  
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}

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AMENDMENT/REPLY TRANSMITTAL LETTER

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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OCT 15 2003

Sir:

TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

Enclosed is a reply for the above-identified patent application.

A Petition for Extension of Time is also enclosed.

A Terminal Disclaimer and the [ ] [ ] fee due under 37 C.F.R. § 1.20(d) are also enclosed.

Also enclosed is/are Reply Postcard

Small entity status is hereby claimed.

Applicant(s) requests continued examination under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 and enclose the [ ] RCE Fee S [ ] RCE Fee L fee due under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(e).

Applicant(s) requests that any previously unentered after final amendments not be entered. Continued examination is requested based on the enclosed documents identified above.

Applicant(s) previously submitted \_\_, on \_\_, for which continued examination is requested.

Applicant(s) requests suspension of action by the Office until at least \_\_, which does not exceed three months from the filing of this RCE, in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.103(c). The required fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(i) is enclosed.

A Request for Entry and Consideration of Submission under 37 C.F.R. § 1.129(a) (1809/2809) is also enclosed.

No additional claim fee is required.

An additional claim fee is required, and is calculated as shown below:

A M E N D E D C L A I M S					
	NO. OF CLAIMS	HIGHEST NO. OF CLAIMS PREVIOUSLY PAID FOR	EXTRA CLAIMS	RATE	ADD'L FEE
Total Claims	20	MINUS =	0	$\times 86.00 =$	0
Independent Claims	3	MINUS =	0	$\times 18.00 =$	0
If Amendment adds multiple dependent claims, add	290.00				0
Total Claim Amendment Fee					0
If small entity status is claimed, subtract 50% of Total Claim Amendment Fee					0
<b>TOTAL ADDITIONAL CLAIM FEE DUE FOR THIS AMENDMENT</b>					<b>\$0.00</b>

A total fee in the amount of \$ 950.00 is enclosed.

Charge \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to Deposit Account No. 02-4800.

The Director is hereby authorized to charge any appropriate fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16, 1.17, 1.20(d) and 1.21 that may be required by this paper, and to credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 02-4800. This paper is submitted in duplicate.

Respectfully submitted,

BURNS, DOANE, SWECKER & MATHIS, LLP

Date: 11/2/03

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